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the food at the table that one person is kept busy with a "shooer," or blackening the rings of drying pumpkin at night; with clouds of mosquitoes making necessary the constant use of a smudge pot; and with other pests such as mice, vermin, and an occasional pole cat, is pictured for the reader in all its stern reality.

Chapter follows chapter in logical sequence from the account of the migration by oxcart from Indiana through the settlement in the new location, the platting of the town, and the offering of inducements to draw settlers to the community. The five appendixes contain a biographical sketch of Wilson Brewer, father of the narrator; recollections of Major Brassfield's account of the murder by Henry Lott of a part of Inkpaduta's band; and some poems by Mrs. Harriet Bonebright-Closz.

The book is illustrated profusely with drawings of pioneer implements and utensils, apparently sketched from the objects themselves, and thus of great interest to the student of pioneer conditions. The volume is well bound, printed on good paper, and supplied with a table of contents and list of illustrations.

WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, JR.

*City Charter Making in Minnesota* (Bureau for Research in Government of the University of Minnesota, *Publications*, no. 1). By WILLIAM ANDERSON, PH.D., Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Bureau. With a foreword by CEPHAS D. ALLIN. (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1922. ix, 198 p.)

The primary purpose of this book is to assemble in compact form "all the information which may be found necessary to the intelligent drafting, adoption, and amendment of home rule charters in Minnesota." The volume is reviewed in these pages because the author devotes an introductory chapter to an historical survey of the "Development of City Government in Minnesota." Not only does this account add to the value of the chapters which follow on the practical problems of present-day charter-making, but it makes a real contribution to Minnesota history. Attention is first directed to the growth of Minnesota cities from 1850 to 1920. The beginnings of local government

in Minnesota are then discussed. The incorporation in 1854 of St. Paul and Stillwater as cities is mentioned. "In 1855 the town of Henderson, the home of the industrious J. R. Brown, received the first town charter to be conferred on any community in Minnesota west of the Mississippi." The demand for town charters increased tremendously in the "boom" period before the panic of 1857. The land speculators who promoted the towns and cities, writes the author, "were interested primarily in enriching themselves from the development of sites for future cities." This business was almost ended by the panic. The problem of rural local government remained and as settlers poured in after 1854 it became serious. "By 1857," writes the author, "the counties had been much reduced in size and increased in number to meet the needs of these people for local government, but the counties were too large, after all, and their organization not adapted for purely local purposes. The people needed a township system, and it was such a system to which most of them, coming from New England, New York, and the Old Northwest, were accustomed." The upshot of the matter was the enactment in 1858 of the "first general laws for establishing a general system of town or township government." The law was "materially changed by the second legislature."

After dealing with these beginnings the author traces the development of city government down to 1921. Considerable attention is given to "the constitution and local government," "special legislation," the general incorporation law of 1870, the general village law of 1875, the home rule amendment of 1896 and 1898, and the home rule enabling acts. The author states that sixty-five out of ninety-two cities in the state have adopted home rule. The rest of the book deals with state control over cities and villages, present government of Minnesota villages and cities, procedure for making and amending home rule charters, and principles and problems of charter-making. Appendix 1 consists of a "model charter for Minnesota cities."

THEODORE C. BLEGEN